IRELANDS Complaint

Against Sir

GEORGE RATCLIFFE

Knight, now Prisoner in the *Gate-house* at *Westminster*.

Delivered in PARLIAMENT there by Captaine *AVDLEY MERVIN*.

VVherein is declared the Grievances of that Kingdome, occasioned by him, and the late Earle of *Strafford*.

The Principall cause, why these late troubles are fallen upon them.

Whereunto is annexed the Depositions and Articles exhibited against him in Parliament.

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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND
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REQUEST
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Irelands Grievances, and the complaint of that Kingdome against Sir *George Ratcliffe* Knight, and now Prisoner in the *Gate house*, 1641.

IT is an antient saying, that every man knowes best, where his owne shoe wrings him, *England* knowes best its own Grievances, but is scarce sensible of its neighbours, wherefore it is my intent at this time, with as much brevity as may be, to make *England* sensible of the sufferings and Grievances which late *Ireland* hath been partakers of, groaning under the Tyranny and oppression of the two great Incendiaries of this our Kingdome. *Thomas* late Earle of *Strafford* the principall Author, who lately suffered for his deserts, and Sir *George Ratcliffe*, now at this time Prisoner in the *Gate-house* the principall Instrument, that acted his trayterous and wicked designs within these 3. Kingdomes, consider gentle Reader, *Irelands* miserable cryes and complaints against the wicked practises and insulting power of this man, in prosecuting the natives and inhabitants even to blood.

Consider what affinity and Relation he had to the late Earle of *Strafford* in his Combinations, who was the Executioner of all these wicked and Traterous practises, the other contrived, such was their confederacy in Tyranny and oppression, that the lives, estates, and liberties of his Majesties subjects in this Kingdome was violated and ruinated, these were those wicked *Hamans*, that would make havocke of all poore *Mordecays*, to advance their owne greatnesse, if God of his goodnesse had not prevented them by a happy *Parliament*. But I shall forbeare to speake any more of the *Arbitrary* power, or Trayterous designes of the

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[illegible] the Law for it, but I recurre
to him who is little inferior in wickednesse, and who ex-
pects his tryall for it every moment, Sir *George Ratcliffe*,
the unhappy subject of my discourse, he intending the de-
struction of the Realme of *Ireland*, trayterously conspired
to subvert the fundamentall Lawes and Government of the
Kingdome, and in pursuance thereof he hath trayterously
continued and exercised an Arbitrary and Tyrannicall Go-
vernment against Law, throughout the Kingdome, he also
assumed to himselfe Regall power over the goods, persons,
Lands & liberties of his Majesties Subiects of this Realme,
and likewise maliciously perfidiously, & trayterously pub-
lished false opinions, unjust judgements and sentences, in
extrajudiciall manner against Law, and practised unlawfull
Acts, whereby as well divers murmies, seditions, and rebel-
lions have been raised, as also many thousands of his Ma-
jesties Liege people have been ruined in their goods, lands,
liberties, and lives, and many of them being of good quali-
ty and reputation, have been utterly defamed by Pillory,
Murilation of members, and other infamous punishments,
by means whereof his Majesty and the Kingdome, have bin
deprived of their service, injuries, & other publick em-
ployments, the generall Trade and Traffique of this Island,
for the most part destroyed, and his Majesty highly dam-
nified in his Customes and other Revenues.

And his policy to escape from being found out in these
his Trayterous enterprizes, did labour by all the meanes
he could to stop Parliamentary proceedings, and to sub-
vert the rights thereof.

This Sir *George Ratcliffe* also conspired with the late Earle
of *Strafford*, to bring in an Army from *Ireland*, to subdue the
Subjects of *England*, which Trayterous fact, should all sur-
viving Chronologies of times be ransackt, is not to be par-
rallel'd in any age, had that wicked intent of theirs taken
effect,

effect, which makes me view the Records amongſt the infernall Spirits, to find it matcht, there I might extenuate their facts, where firſt he appeares like the falſe ſpirit, ſent into the mouth of the Prophets of *Achab*, to ſpeake deluſions to ſubvert the Hoſt of God.

Nor muſt I ſtay here to accuſe him, but goe further according to the Articles which are exhibited againſt him.

He joyned likewiſe with the late Earle, to take 80000 pounds out of the Exchequer in *Ireland*, and bought Tobacco therewith, and converted the profit to their owne uſes.

He alſoo cuntenanced Papiſts. and yeelded to the building of Monaſteryes, to alienate the affections of the *Iriſh*, from the ſubjection of *England*.

And he Confederated to draw the ſubjects of *Scotland* from the King.

Let this man be judged according to his acts, cry the Commonalty of *Ireland*, alſo the Commons of *England* are of the ſame opinion. It is a common maxime in theſe times, for men to doe what they can, to enjoy greatneſſe let goodneſſe ſeeke entertainement where it will, *Vilia Jacet pietas, probitas laudatur &c.* Piety alas: it is hard to be found, honeſty is cõmended, but few give it acceptance. In what a miſerable condition are all thoſe, who ſtrive to be great, and not good, was it not the caſe of Sir *George Ratcliffe*, who now for his liberty (I am perſwaded would exchange his dignity, for to whom much is given, much will be required. I have heard many, who having underſtood the crymes aforesmentioned, committed by this *Iudas* (for ſo may I tearme him) ready to curſe him, which is Impiety, for wee ought rather to pray for our Enemies. Neither was he alone the ſole actor, in the forenamed Grievances, for he was aſſiſted by Sir *Richard Bolton* Knight, Lord Chancellor of *Ireland*, *Iohn* Lord Biſhop of *Derry*,

and Sir *Gerrard Lowther* Knight, Lord-chiefe Justice of his Majesties Court of *Common Pleas*, who are likewise accused of the said Facts.

Spencer and *Gaveston*, who have left their names monumentally odious, for the evill Councell they fed the Kings eare with, yet did possibly advance their own friends, whilst these their envy, and Treason for a common Centery, equally touching the bounds of every superficies, for as concerning the valid estates; they have illegally overthrowne them.

I must confesse, that *humanum est errare*, and the Law allowes writs of errour, and arrests of judgement, but where there is *crassa ignorantia*, against their Oathes, and knowne Lawes of the Kingdome, nay where it is rather *præmeditata malitia*, an emulating policy, seeking onely to be glorious in a Nationall destruction, as if their safety were onely involved in our Ruine, there I must pity, but not excuse them, Innovations in Law, and so consequently in government, creepe in like Heresies in Religion, slowly and slily pleading, and in the end a sawcy and corrupt Legitimacy by uncontrouled prescription.

The *Benjamites* flung stones with their left hands, yet they would not misse a haires breadth; these extrajudiciall proceedings are flung with the left, I meane they are sinisterous, and imprint their black and blew markes more certaine and more fatall, so that they may say; *Que Regio in terris nostri non plena laboris*, though these things be familier unto us, yet I cannot but admire how this unproportionable body of Judicature, should swell up into such a vaste and ulcerous dimencion.

But yet that I may returne againe to this unworthy Knight Sir *George* not St, *George*, I cannot but admire his constancy to his master, the deceased Earle of *Strafford* with what courage and resolution he performed this Intrest that was

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put in him, to perſecute both with rigour and wicked menaces, his unjuſt and illegall commands, which (if piouſly and juſtly given, & vertuouſly addicted) would have beene an eternall monument, of glory and happineſſe, but the children of this world, are onely wiſe in their conceits, and where falſity and injuſtice is upholden, how can equity floriſh.

I am forced to cry out, *O Ratcliffe, Ratcliffe*, thou didſt ſeeke rather to obey thy maſter but a Viceroy, or *Debuty* King, then the King himſelfe, and by ſo doing, didſt thou violate the lawes of that unhappy Kingdome, (by the and thy complices made ſo) for which now there is nothing left unto the, but ſhame and repentance.

what glaſſe hath this unhappy devided Kingdome, from his Majeſties preſence and audience to contemplate the faire & raviſhing forme of his royall intentions in, but in the cleare and diaphanous Adminiſtration of his Juſtice, and what doe theſe Trayterous and Illegall practiſes aime at, but in Affront to his Majeſtie, and diſcontent to his ſubjects, to multiply as by a magicke glaſſe, the royall diſpenſation of his favours into the ugly & deformed uſage of their ſuppreſſion of the liberties, devaſtation of eſtates, and deprivation of his Loyall Subjects, ſo that it may be ſaid, *Regali capiti cervicem conſul equinam jungere ſic vellet variasq; inducere plumas.*

In concluſion, all that I can ſay, is this, that hee which but lately (Sir *George Ratcliffe* I meane) lived ſo Tryumphantly, and in Pompe, is now but *Civiliter mortuus*, for his anſwer ſpeedily muſt be put into the Articles, now in the High Court of Parliament exhibited againſt him, that further proceedings may be expedited, as may be ſutable to Juſtice, and the preſidents of Parliaments, to his Majeſty appeare in his magnificent goodneſſe, and indulgency to his people, that his people may bee raviſhed in their

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their dutifull obedience and loyalty to his Majestie.

So shall this Parliament, live in records to Posterity, as the instrumentall reformers of these corrupted times, and that the Kingdome and Common-wealth, may pay an amiable Sacrifice in retribution and acknowledgement of his Majesties multiplied providence, for our preservation herein, to this I know, all but Trayters both to King and Countrey, will with an unanimous consent say *Amen.*

The Accusation and Impeachment of Sir GEORGE RATCLIFFE, by the Commons in this present *Parliament* assembled, charging with high Treason, and other misdemeanours, as ensue.

IMprimus, that he hath conspired with the Earle of *Strafford* to bring into *Ireland* an *Arbitrary Government*, and to subvert the fundamentall Lawes, and did joyne with the Earle to bring in an Army from *Ireland*, to subdue the subjects of *England*.

2. That he hath joyned with the Earle to use regall Power, and so deprive the subjects of their liberties and propieties.

3. That he hath joyned with the Earle to take 80000 Pounds out of the *Exchequer* in *Ireland*, and bought Tobacco therewith, & converted the same profits to their owne uses.

4. That he hath Traiterously confederated with the Earle to countenance Papists, and build Monasteryes, to alienate the affections of the *Irish* subjects from the subjection of *England*.

5. That he Trayterously conspired with the Earle, to draw the subjects of *Scotland* from the King.

6. That to Preserve himself and the said Earle, hath laboured to subvert the liberties and priviledges of the Parliament in *Ireland*.

FINIS.